4: Kublitzky G-4, 5 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

Wages in Lithuania [1]

466 The average working day in the manufacturing industries in Lithuania is 8 hours and the working week 48 hours. The minimum working week in factories is 4 days as provided by the Government regulations.

465 462 The average daily wages of unskilled industrial workers on July 31, 1937, are shown below, by sex.

	Males (lits) [2]	*Females (lits)*
Chemical industry	7.60	----
Hides and skins	4.25	3.15
Textiles	5.20	4.05
Lumber	5.55	4.55
Paper and printing	7.35	4.50
Foodstuffs	4.50	3.95
Electricity, gas, and water	7.25	----

[2] Average exchange rate of lit in February 1938 and December 1938—about 17 cents.

The average daily wages of skilled workers amounted to 8.75 lits. The daily wages of a seasonal farm hand on May 1, 1938, amounted to 2.40 lits for a man and 1.80 lits for a woman, including board, and 3.35 lits and 2.50 lits, respectively, without board.

Farm hands are hired at Christmas time for 1 year and receive wages in cash and in kind, in conformity with an agreement. The yearly wages of farm hands during 1938 are given below. The farm hands are also provided with free clothing, board, and lodging.

	Total yearly wages (lits)	*Cash wages (lits)*
Male hands	332	310
Female hands	263	243
Junior male hands	220	203
Junior female hands	178	162
Shepherds	118	101

Daily wages in the peat-extraction industry average from 5.50 lits to 8.50 lits for unskilled males and from 3.00 lits to 5.00 lits for unskilled females. Machinists receive from 7.50 lits to 9.00 lits per day.

465 The following are the monthly wages paid in Kaunas by the Railway Administration of the Lithuanian Ministry of Communications. Wages in the provincial districts are 10 percent lower.

	Lits per month		*Lits per month*
Locomotive engineers:		Firemen	277.00
First class	519.00	Conductors:	
Second class	476.00	First class	280.00
Third class	415.00	Second class	240.00
Assistant locomotive engineers:		Third class	180.00
First class	337.00	Station masters:	
Second class	314.00	First class	540.00
		Second class	450.00

[1] Report of Vladimir Kublitzky, clerk of American Legation at Kaunas.

4: Kublitzky G-4, 5 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

Station masters—Con.	Lits per month
Third class	380. 00
Fourth class	340. 00
Fifth class	300. 00
Signalmen	200. 00

Baggage agents:	Lits per month
First class	300. 00
Second class	280. 00
Third class	240. 00
Unskilled workers	[1] 4. 50–6. 00

[1] Per day

Monthly wages paid to Kaunas municipal autobus employees are given below. Wages in the Provinces are 10 to 15 percent lower.

	Lits per month
Drivers	250. 00–270. 00
Conductors	210. 00–230. 00
Mechanics:	
First class	300. 00
Second class	260. 00
Third class	200. 00

The figures below show the wages per hour of specified classes of skilled workmen in the building trades throughout Lithuania:

	Lits per hour
Bricklayers, first class	1.50
Bricklayers, second class	1.40
Electricians, ironmongers, and carpenters	1.60–1.70

An unskilled male laborer receives from 5.00 lits to 6.00 lits per day and a female laborer, from 3.00 lits to 4.00 lits per day.

The following wages and salaries are paid to skilled workers in the printing and publishing trades:

	Lits per month
Linotypists	350–550
Engravers	350
Assistant engravers	300
Managers, printing room	275
Compositors	250

	Lits per day
Mechanics	9
Stereotypists	9
Stone polishers	5
Bookbinders	5

Payment for overtime in general amounts to not less than 25 percent of the basic daily wages, provided the rate has not been set forth in the agreement concluded between the employer and employees.

No allowances for dependents or payments in kind are made in Lithuania, except in the case of farm labor. Free housing is given sometimes to watchmen and to one or two skilled indispensable workmen in industrial enterprises. Every laborer after having worked 1 year under agreement is entitled to 12 days' holiday with pay.

In conformity with an amendment to the income-tax law enacted October 9, 1935, a tax on earnings has to be paid by all persons except State employees. This tax varies from 2.00 lits for workmen, either single or married, earning from 101 lits to 130 lits per month, to 53.40 lits for single workers earning from 591 lits to 600 lits. The rates are considerably lower for married persons with a family, the reduction from the single rate amounting to as high as 50 percent where the family consists of 7 or more persons. The income tax for

286 practised today by the shepherd girls of the country.
531 Crocheted lace is in general rarer; nevertheless among prosperous farmers we often find decorative crocheting and openwork on beautiful and valuable bed linen.

[291] Gloves and stockings are firmly and closely knitted in several colors, the various threads being carried along on the reverse side. They frequently make their way to Germany, where they appear on the handicraft market as "Swedish" gloves. The most varied-colored ornaments are knitted in, dots and stars, together with flower patterns, and occasionally also animal patterns.
[431] These gay and strong gloves with their bright colors often serve as gifts, and the priest is always presented with them on his winter "calender journeys." In contrast /143/ to other handicrafts, in which, as we saw, old patterns are frequently used in a not so successful manner, their borrowing from the weaving technique in the modern knitted handiwork has an organic and altogether charming effect.

[292] In the Lithuanian folk costume, too, particularly as it has been awakened to new life after the first World War, art and taste are shown: the long colored pleated coat, the colorful bodice, the white shirt with the long embroidered sleeves--everything breathes cheerfulness and joy in colors (see the title picture).*

Therewith is closed the circle which embraces the Lithuanian folk art in all its branches. Many things could be only briefly touched, since the various older and more recent techniques of knotting, crocheting, and knitting can be described only with difficulty.

286 462 The whole realm of weaving with all its related techniques is exclusively the domain of the woman, while the man has chosen for himself those areas which above all demanded bodily strength or because of the size of the objects did not attract

* [Title picture was not included in HRAF reproduction -- Analyst]

286 462 the woman. And perhaps it is due precisely to the artistic intuition and the more sensitive sense of color of the woman that her creations unfold a quite special richness in color and ornamentation in the fields of the small handicrafts. /Unnumbered page with illustration--Old Peasant Woodcut/

/145/ Chapter Four
The Spiritual Culture of the City

113 /Unnumbered note on Chapter Four/ A comprehensive presentation of the development of Lithuanian architecture does not so far exist. A brief sketch of the architecture of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is given by K. Jasenas in Vol. III, No. 5 of his Visuotinė meno istorija (General History of Art), where we also find practically the only information on Lithuanian castle structures. An appreciation of the architect Vl. Dubeneckis, the builder of the Vytautas Museum, the art school, the state theater, and other public buildings, is given by P. Galaunė in Vol. I of the almanac Prošvaistė (1937). In addition, the valuable monograph by the same author, Vilniaus meno mokykla, 1793-1831 (The Art School of Vilna) (Kaunas, 1928), should be mentioned. Also, the presentation of Lithuanian painting, sculpture, and music is so far limited to sketches and separate articles. (Cf. for example Galaunė, l'Art Lithuanien (1934); Jasenas, History of Art, III, 8, with carefully selected illustrations; etc.)

A. The Architecture

181 1. Historical Preliminaries

The investigation of the cultural elements of Lithuanian national life led us to the conclusion

11: League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

fresh meat and poultry 13 millions, cereals about 20 millions and eggs 7.8 millions).

The total value of exports of raw materials and half-finished goods was 73.4 million litai. Exports of hemp and tow accounted for 25 million litai, cellulose for 12.7 millions and timber for 21 millions.

Among imports, manufactured products head the list (133 million litai, comprising machinery and tools, automobiles, chemical products, textiles and yarns, etc.), followed by raw materials and half-finished goods totalling 78.7 million litai (gilt metals, cement, chemical fertilisers, coal, naphtha and petroleum, cotton, etc.).

As long as the territory of Klaipėda (Memel) belonged to Lithuania, the foreign trade of the country passed almost exclusively through the Port of Klaipėda (Memel). Under the treaty concluded in March 1939 with Germany, Lithuania retains a free port at Klaipėda.

* * *

There has been a fairly big increase in population; rural families tend to be large. The women, though very fully occupied with their children and domestic duties, find time to look after the animals and work in the fields. This type of work is, however, more often left to women who have no children or domestic duties to attend to — that is, to girls or women whose children are older. Lithuanian women are, as a rule, fit and healthy; nevertheless, they are sometimes forced to neglect their homes, owing to the claims of agriculture and the rearing of children. They are naturally clean and orderly, and like to have a little garden of their own; in winter, they devote themselves to home industries — spinning, knitting, embroidery and sometimes weaving. The artistic value of a great deal of the handwork done in the country is of exhibition standard and has been shown both in Lithuania and abroad — for example, in 1937, at the Paris International Exhibition and, in 1938, at the Berlin International Exhibition of Arts and Crafts.

The Lithuanian peasant is somewhat deliberate in character; he is long-suffering and is prepared when necessary to go through difficult times without complaint. This was proved during the war, when, notwithstanding intense suffering, the popular songs and jokes dear to the peasant heart were never forgotten.

The rural population used formerly to wear homespun woollen and linen clothing — the production of flax is relatively greater in Lithuania than in any other European country. Of recent years, this type of clothing has disappeared, its place being taken by ready-made factory goods.

11: League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

VIII. THE ROLE OF LITHUANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Women play an important part in Lithuanian agriculture both economically and intellectually. A farm without a woman is considered as extraordinary; the first thing a young peasant does when he comes into property is to marry, and a widower soon marries again.

From time immemorial, the peasant woman has taken her full share of responsibility in rural work. Though not on such a big scale as at present, she always made butter and cheese, collected eggs and occasionally fattened a pig for the market and sold a few geese. The more skilled even contrived to sell a little honey, dried fruits, poppy-heads and onions, and used to take to the fair in the neighbouring town their homespun linen or cloth. The woman's modest earnings were independent of the revenue from the farm; they covered the housekeeping expenditure and enabled her to put a little aside and even to help her husband on occasion.

In a number of districts, the ancient custom still prevails whereby a girl could reject a suitor who did not promise to confer on her, as mistress of his house, the right to manage the whole financial side of the farm.

Legally, women are treated in Lithuania to-day on a footing of equality with men. They have the right to own and administer land or other immovable property whether married or not. After the parents' death, brothers and sisters inherit the land in equal shares; the widow or widower inherits 25% of the estate. No statistics are available of the number of women landowners, but they are known to be less numerous than the men. The principal reason for this is the desire to avoid breaking up estates. One very widespread custom in many districts is for the peasant to leave his land to his eldest son, requiring him at the same time to pay over to his sisters and younger brothers in cash or in stock the shares devolving on them. When a girl marries, the share accruing to her is often registered in her husband's name. Before the war, under the law of the Russian Empire, girls in the Province of Kaunas inherited only one-fourteenth of the immovable property. These various factors have all tended to reduce the area owned by women. It is among the owners of large estates that women constitute the highest percentage, but these estates are few in number.

When an agricultural census was taken in 1930, women were found to constitute 50.69% and men 49.31% of the total adult

11:League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

workers permanently employed in farming. Despite the fairly considerable increase in population, the number of rural inhabitants shows a downward tendency, the drop in the case of women being greater than in that of men. The figures for men and women engaged in farmwork in 1923 and 1930 respectively were as followed.

	Women	Men
1923	594,479	535,392
1930	489,566	501,489

Women are making energetic efforts to obtain employment in industry, being more attracted than men by urban life. Those who are prepared to spend their life in domestic occupations remain on the farms, while the daughters of landless parents and large families count on finding less strenuous work in the towns. They enlist in industry or domestic service or in other branches. This circumstance, together with the fact that agricultural undertakings in Lithuania consist mainly of average-sized and small farms worked by the owners themselves, explains the exceptionally low percentage of hired female labour found in agriculture. The figures for male wage-earners are slightly higher, but men too are attracted by the easier methods of earning a livelihood in other branches. The agricultural census of 1930 gave the following figures for workers permanently employed in farming :

	Women	%	Men	%
Members of farmers' families	418,010	42.17	419,509	42.32
Wage-earners	71,556	7.22	82,208	8.29

Thus, 85 % of the population employed in farming consists of members of the family and only 15 % of wage-earners. Both categories include a certain number over fifteen years of age. In 1930, these constituted 12.29 % of the total number of agricultural workers, the percentages being as follows :

	Boys %	Girls %
Members of the family	39.81	31.42
Wage-earners	20.06	8.71

The introduction of six standards in the elementary schools and the increase in the number of agricultural and domestic economy schools are responsible for a big drop in the number of children in receipt of wages. For the most part, they work only in summer on their parents' farms.

The small number of girls in receipt of wages in large families — which are more common than not — in the country is

11: League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

worthy of note. The explanation is that the elder daughters have to help their mothers in the house. Moreover, there is more demand for boys on the smaller farms; an adult paid hand would cost too much.

The distribution of women's work according to the size of the farm is as follows: on the smaller farms — under 15 hectares — there are more adult women than men working who are members of the family; on farms ranging from 15 to 30 hectares paid labour is generally found consisting of adult women and boys, the number of women members of the family working being about the same as that of the men. The number of children working as members of the family is in inverse ratio to the size of the farm, the figures for boys declining rather more sharply than those for girls. In farms of 50 hectares, the percentage of women in receipt of wages becomes equal to the percentage of women belonging to the family, whereas in larger farms the former percentage is the greater. In farms of over 50 hectares, the proportion of women among the wage-earners declines in inverse ratio to the size of the farm.

Wage-earning female agricultural workers are recruited from among the landless proletariat, which is not very numerous in the rural districts, and more particularly from among families of small landowners and settlers. Many of them are engaged only in seasonal day-labour and live at home.

A woman's work on the farm is very varied. In addition to her usual domestic duties, she has to feed the fowls, milk and often feed the cows and work in the kitchen garden — all tasks for which men as a rule show little inclination. She has, besides, to toss the hay, load the carts, bind the sheaves, pick the flax, etc. Sugar-beet cultivation and other hoed crops require much female labour. With the modernisation of agriculture, dairying, pig-breeding and poultry are tending to constitute more important branches of agriculture, and practically the whole of the export trade in eggs, butter and bacon represents the outcome of women's work.

The life of the peasant woman is becoming increasingly difficult, for even though her labour raises the standard of well-being of her own family and of the country as a whole, she is gradually losing part of her economic independence. The income she derived before the war from her eggs, cheese and butter is passing out of her keeping and her husband now receives, through the intermediary of the co-operative dairies, pig-marketing boards and centres for the purchase of flax and eggs, ten times the sum she once earned, this income forming the mainstay of the whole farm budget. A thrifty hard-working housewife who has to be constantly begging her husband for money for minor household expenses is criticied for extravagance.

11:League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

With so much other work to do, the farmer's wife has little time nowadays for spinning and weaving. This is indeed how her artistic sense, cultivated for centuries, finds expression. There is a special material for every purpose and a special design for every material — for bed-linen and personal linen, pure linen weave; for towels and table linen, linen and cotton mixed, with hundreds of combinations of grey and white checks; for carpets and blankets, linen and woollen materials in brighter colours and bolder designs; for men's suits, woollen materials. The women's traditional costumes are still found in many districts, and attempts have recently been made to extend the use of national costumes in general. Every corner of Lithuania has its own traditions, designs and combinations of colours. The designs of the costumes bear witness to an original taste in art, while the choice of colours is remarkably finely conceived. Again, a great variety of exquisite detailed designs is found in the Easter eggs. Only the son of a Lithuanian woman who had grown up in an atmosphere of mystic legends could have created the Lithuanian "Smūtkelis", the saints in the little chapels standing by the roadside, the amazing Samogitian crosses.

To recall the situation of the country before the war is to realise the importance of the humble peasant woman's rôle. During foreign domination when there were practically no books written in the national language and no Lithuanian schools, the peasant woman was the guardian of the Lithuanian language, customs and art and the inspirer of the national conscience when her sons returned home for the holidays after studying at schools which offered them only the foreign culture of the country's oppressors. The Lithuanian woman's personal beliefs and convictions revealed her integrity and sense of justice. A gentle poetry and original philosophy of life imbued the songs and tales and proverbs which she transmitted to her children. The lore she handed down to her daughters, her simple replies to their questions, reflected an exquisite beauty of character and the finest intelligence. Her bearing was marked by nobility, by a consciousness of her dignity, far above what might be regarded as corresponding to her station in life; in her relations with different classes of society, she exhibited remarkable tact and a keen sense of diplomacy.

The Lithuanian peasant woman has preserved this natural dignity notwithstanding the profound transformation of the whole life of the country. The school with its army of teachers — about 60% are women — the Lithuanian book, the national Press adapted to the requirements of the various social classes, officials and private economic and cultural activities, the agrarian reform, the breaking-up of communal lands into individual

11: League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

farms, improved means of communication, the wireless — all these factors have completely revolutionised the physiognomy of the country and the mentality of its inhabitants. 562

The rôle of the intellectual woman in agriculture is no less important. As a member of the Chamber of Agriculture or of the many associations which aim at promoting the technical advancement of agriculture, as the owner and manager of well-run farms, she takes an active part in the solution of various problems relating to agriculture. Like men, she is found in the service of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Chamber of Agriculture. But it is in the sphere of agricultural instruction that she plays the most important part. Girls have opportunities of studying agronomic science at the Agricultural Academy at Dotnuva, and agricultural domestic economy is taught in the domestic science section of that institution. On completing their studies, they spread the knowledge they have acquired by enrolling as teachers in domestic economy and other agricultural schools; they visit the peasant women in their own homes, in their capacity as agricultural domestic advisers under the Chamber of Agriculture; they give them advice and practical instruction; they organise lectures and courses on questions of interest to farming women, competitions, excursions and local exhibitions; they run young peasants' clubs and play an important part in organisations for the education of rural youth; they contribute to the periodicals for farmers' wives and daughters — "Šcimininkė" (with about 80,000 subscribers), "Jaunasis Ūkininkas" (also with about 80,000 subscribers) and "Moteris" (15,000 subscribers). They prepare lectures, etc., for the half-hour wireless talk for countrywomen. 462

The recently founded Society of Lithuanian Peasant Women looks after the interests of peasant women. Its object is to group all Lithuanian peasant women, including those working on farms, with a view to joint economic action designed to create a new type not concerned solely with their own individual calling but prepared to interest themselves also in the well-being of the nation as a whole. The Society of Lithuanian Peasant Women has an hour's talk on the radio every Sunday, devoted exclusively to the affairs of women in rural areas. 562 575